REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 22, 2009, has been reviewed and the comments therein were carefully considered. Claim 1, 8, 9, 11, and 19 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 4, 8, 15 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant traverses based on the present amendments to the claims, and respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102/103

Claims 1-3, 6, 11, 13, 14 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tai et al (US 5,359,691). Applicant traverses this rejection.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 11, 13, 14, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiao et al (US 6,318,863) in view of Tai et al (US 5,359,691). Applicant traverses this rejection.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiao et al (US 6,318,863) in view of Tai et al (US 5,359,691), in further view of Tsutsui et al (US 2001/0030571 A1). Applicant traverses this rejection.

Claims 4, 10, 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiao et al (US 6,318,863) in view of Tai et al (US 5,359,691), in further view of Bassous et al (US 4,007,464). Applicant traverses this rejection.

Embodiments of the present invention relate to an apparatus that comprises a light transmissive display, one or more light emitters, a light guiding plate and two or more tapered light guides. The light guiding plate is substantially parallel with the light transmissive display and at least partly overlaps the light transmissive display. The plate is adapted to receive light from the one or more light emitters, guide the received light therein substantially in parallel to a

plane of a displaying surface of the light transmissive display, and to direct the light through the light transmissive display.

The two or more tapered light guides each extend between the plate and one or more of the light emitters. Each light guide is adapted to direct light from at least one light emitter into the plate. The two or more tapered light guides are arranged in series and form taper shaped void areas between each pair of tapered light guides, wherein the taper shaped void areas are arranged to receive electrical elements.

Tai, on the other hand, describes an assembly for backlighting a liquid crystal plate panel display. The assembly 10 includes a rectangular backlighting pipe 14 (see fig. 1 and col. 4, lines 28 to 30). Two light collimating assemblies or arrangement 28, 28' are provided for directing light into the pipe 14 at adjacent entry ends 16, 20 (see fig. 1, col. 4, lines 35 to 38).

Tiao also describes an illumination device that includes an array of multiple light emitting modules 202 (e.g. light emitting diodes), an array of taper light pipes 210, a taper light pipe 220 and a light valve 230 (e.g. a liquid crystal display). In operation, light is emitted by the light emitting modules 202 and provided to the array of taper light pipes 210. The taper light pipes 210 collimate the light and provide the collimated light to the taper light pipe 220. The taper light pipe then provides the light to the light valve 230.

Bassous describes an inkjet printing system whereby the jet nozzle structures may be manufactured from Silicon. Col. 2, lines 4 to 11 mention that there is a high degree of control of nozzle size resulting from precise control of processes used in fabrication, e.g. etching. Col. 3, lines 56 to 61 mention that the nozzle aperture may be rounded off to minimise stresses concentrations which may result in failure of excessive wear of a nozzle.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the two or more tapered light guides are arranged in series and form taper shaped void areas between each pair of tapered light guides, wherein the taper shaped void areas are arranged to receive electrical elements. This amendment is supported by fig. 3 and by page 5, line 23 to page 6, line 8. No new matter has been added.

Tai does not disclose "wherein the two or more tapered light guides are arranged in series and form taper shaped void areas between each pair of tapered light guides, wherein the taper shaped void areas are arranged to receive electrical elements" as recited in claim 1. Tai instead describes that the collimating assemblies 28, 28' are provided at different edges of the pipe 14 and are consequently not arranged in series. Furthermore, Tai does not disclose that the area

between the collimating assemblies 28, 28' is arranged to receive electrical elements. Claim 1 is therefore not anticipated or obvious over Tai. Claim 11 has been similarly amended, and is allowable at least for similar reasons as mentioned above.

Tiao similarly does not disclose "a light guiding plate being substantially parallel with the light transmissive display and at least partly overlapping the light transmissive display, the plate being adapted to ... guide the received light therein substantially in parallel to a plane of a displaying surface of the light transmissive display" or "wherein the taper shaped void areas are arranged to receive electrical elements" as recited in claim 1.

Tiao instead describes that the pipe 220 guides the light therein in a direction that is perpendicular to the plane of the displaying surface of the light valve 230. Furthermore, Tiao does not disclose that the voids between the pipes 212 are arranged to receive electrical elements. Claim 1 is therefore not anticipated or obvious over Tiao. Claim 11 has been similarly amended, and is allowable at least for similar reasons as mentioned above.

Becuase neither Tai nor Tiao disclose or suggest the feature of "wherein the taper shaped void areas are arranged to receive electrical elements" as recited in claim 1, it would not be obvious, or indeed even possible, for a person skilled in the art to combine the teachings of these documents and arrive at an apparatus that falls within the scope of claim 1. Consequently, claim 1 is not obvious in view of Tiao and Tai. Claim 11 is similar to claim 1 and is not rendered obvious by the combination of Tiao and Tai for the same reasons as mentioned above.

With regard to the examiner's rejection of claims 4, 10, 12 and 15 using Tiao, Tai and Bassous, the cited references are not properly combinable. Aspects of the present invention relate to an apparatus that emits light, guides light and includes a light transmissive display for displaying information. Bassous on the other hand relates to an ink jet printing system and a method for manufacturing an ink jet nozzle. It is clear that Bassous relates to a totally different field of technology to embodiments and aspects of the present invention. Because Bassous relates to a different field of technology, the person skilled in the art would not consider Bassous as relevant prior art and would certainly not consider combining ink jet technology with optical technology as claimed.

Furthermore, Bassous does not disclose that the ink jet nozzle may function as a light guide since there is no disclosure that the nozzle is adapted to internally totally reflect light. Consequently, even if Tiao, Tai and Bassous were combined, the resulting combination would

not fall within the scope of claims 4, 10, 12 and 15 since Bassous does not disclose a tapered light guide.

Therefore, none of claims 4, 10, 12 and 15 are rendered obvious by the combination of Tiao, Tai and Bassous.

Conclusion

All rejections having been addressed, Applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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